

## READING ROOM SUCCESS STORY

For 20 years, New York City's Jointly-Maintained Reading Room was in the World Trade Center. In 1999, the lease on that great location could not be renewed. The books and fixtures were put in storage. Months stretched into years during a meticulous search for affordable space in various business districts of Manhattan.



Following the devastation of 9/11, redoubled efforts to relocate in the WTC area led to leasing of a storefront in a somewhat neglected historic building on John Street, one and a half blocks from "ground zero."



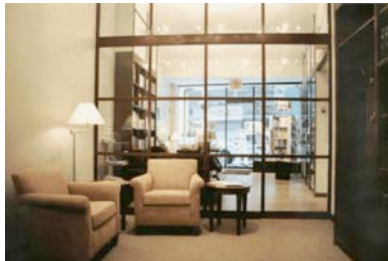
For one year, a temporary Reading Room was open on the third floor, while the building facade was restored by the owner to its original 1889 appearance and while construction work progressed inside the store at street level.



Finally on May 28, 2003, the new Reading Room opened at 13 John Street where it



continues to welcome visitors 55 hours a week, from 8AM-6PM weekdays and from 11AM-4PM on Saturdays. In the two years and two months since that date, over 6,000 visits have been recorded.



**More importantly, one third of all visitors – over 2000 persons – have been newcomers visiting a Christian Science Reading Room for the first time.** In the last twelve months, the jointly-maintained Reading Room has sold more copies of *Science and Health* than in any year during the last quarter of a century.



The Christian Science Reading Room Tri-State Committee, the overseers of this "beacon of light" to the business community, is grateful for many



aspects of this Reading Room – the well-equipped Electronic Study Aids room with computers and LCD TV for the video Bible Lesson, the high foot-traffic on John Street (which becomes a pedestrian mall closed to vehicles in the middle of the day), its location near 14 subway lines, the solid financial support that made this all possible – but the Committee acknowledges that the secret of its success is the metaphysical support from 45 participating churches in the area and from its "Prayer Crew," members of the Committee that serve as practitioners for the Reading Room seven days a week.

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